

**City Council of the City of New Castle**  
**December 11, 2007**  
**Public Hearing**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Council President Blest  
Councilman Reese  
Councilwoman Churchill  
Councilwoman Petty  
Councilman Gaworski

**Also Present:**

Cathryn Thomas, Matthew Christopher, Janet Carlin, Jeff Bergstrom, Roger Aiken, Esquire

A Public Hearing was held to discuss proposed Ordinance No. 456, approving a major subdivision in the vicinity of 9th and School Sts. Jeff Williams explained to Council where the project is located and what the R. M. Williams Co. plans to build. Mr. Williams stated that he has met with Jeff Bergstrom and all of the lots meet the City Code. There will be parking behind 5 of the properties and front driveways for 3 of the properties. The parking differences were due to the wet lands being in close proximity of the homes. School St. will be extended but will be a dead end street. Council then asked Mr. Williams specific questions regarding the flood plane, parking, wet lands, etc. Debby Pullan asked if the homeowner at 209 W. 9th to be able to park on School St. Mr. Williams said that would be up to the City. Senator Connor stated that she was concerned about the width of the street because of school buses and emergency vehicles hitting cars parked on the street. Also, she was concerned about overflow parking. It was confirmed that there would be no parking on School St. as the street is 18' wide. In response to Debby Pullan's question, the homeowner at 209 W. 9th would not be able to park on School St. anymore. Mr. Williams stated that in regard to 209 W. 9th, the builder would probably be agreeable to paving a parking spot in his yard and build a curb cut out.

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**City Council of the City of New Castle**  
**December 11, 2007**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Council President Blest  
Councilman Reese  
Councilwoman Churchill  
Councilwoman Petty  
Councilman Gaworski

**Also Present:**

Mayor Klingmeyer, Janet Carlin, Cathryn Thomas, Matthew Christopher, Jeff Bergstrom, Roger Aiken, Esquire, Chief McDerby.

**Approval of Minutes to Date**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Churchill to accept the Minutes as presented and was seconded by Councilman Reese.

**Approval of Treasurers Report**

Janet Carlin reported that there was \$400.00 in petty cash, \$469,797.35 in the Wilmington Trust Accounts, \$2,231,972.18 in the Certificates of Deposit and Delaware Government Investment Pool and \$2,700,972.18 total cash on hand. A motion was made by to accept the report by councilman Reese and seconded by Councilwoman Churchill.

**Report from City Administrator**

Mrs. Thomas stated that her report was in Council's packet and that the forms for the recycling program are at the meeting tonight so residents can pick up the forms tonight. Council President Blest wanted to thank Mrs. Thomas for her work on the newsletter.

**Approval of Staff Reports**

Chief McDerby and Jeff Bergstrom stated that their reports were in Council's packet. Matthew Christopher thanks MSC for their help at 917 Gray St.

## **Grant Review**

Councilwoman Churchill reported that the following bills were paid for the Bellanca Air Hanger:

- a. \$450.00 for a sign for the construction site.
- b. \$307.98 for an ad for Phase II bids to The News Journal.
- c. \$13,354.84 for engineering services to Remington, Vernick & Beach.
- d. \$29,029.50 for construction work to Guardian Construction.

## **Communications**

Councilman Reese received a letter from FOP stating that they wish to begin negotiating the Police Department's contract as soon as possible.

## **Business from the Floor**

Mr. Stack, representing the Farmer's Market, gave President Blest copies of articles regarding the annexation of New Castle. He also questioned the special assessment against the Farmer's Market for police services and asked Council to reconsider the possible changes to the City Charter.

Mike Heyman thanked Council for sponsoring a workshop regarding SB-4 and encouraged Council to pass the Resolution.

Debby Pullan, speaking on behalf of Local 3615, requested that Council prioritize on funding, i.e., although the Library is a just cause, the City employees have no health insurance after retirement and she felt it was more important to take care of the employees first.

Chris Cashman spoke on behalf of the Library and told Council of the progress to date on the addition to the Library. The Library Committee is requesting \$300,000.00 from Council to help fund the project.

Senator Connor stated that she on the Board of the Friends of the Library and she stated that it is imperative that the City help fund the project.

Betsy McNamara stated that she was for Council providing funding for the Library as did Dick Evans, Caroline Nye as well as other members of the Friends of the Library.

## **Business from the Mayor**

Mayor Klingmeyer gave a speech regarding the Library and stated his position in regarding to providing funding. He felt it was now the City's turn to help fund the Library since the Trustees have always done so in the past.

## **Business from Council President**

Council President Blest stated that he felt this was the first meeting where there was such community input regarding the Library and thanked the residents for their support of the Library.

Introduction of new Police Officers Tina Prescott and Robert Singleton

Chief McDerby introduced the new officers to Council.

Motion Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-42 in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Good Will Fire Co.

Councilman Gaworski read the Resolution. Councilwoman Churchill made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Reese seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **Unfinished Business**

1. Third Reading, Motion, Discussion and Vote on Ordinance No. 455, a proposal to increase income eligibility limits for persons to receive tax exemptions.

Councilwoman Churchill read the Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Reese to adopt the Ordinance and it was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill and it passed unanimously. (Reese-yes, Churchill-yes, Petty-yes, Gaworski-yes, Blest-yes).

2. First and second reading of Ordinance No. 456, approving a major subdivision in the vicinity of 9th and School Sts. Councilman Gaworski read the Ordinance for the first and second time.

3. Discussion of a request from the Library Board for a contribution from the City to fund an addition to the Library. Council President Blest read Resolution No. 2007-37. Councilman Reese made a motion that the Resolution be adopted as corrected. It was seconded by Council President Blest. Councilman Reese stated that the Library is needed for the future of the City. Councilman Reese also stated that he agreed with Debby Pullan regarding health insurance for employees after retirement also. He also acknowledged the community wide support for the Library. Councilwoman Churchill asked that a public hearing being scheduled so all of the residents will have a

chance to respond to the fact the their taxes may go up if the City does help fund the Library addition. Mr. Aiken stated that he felt that the City "pledging" funds should be conditioned upon taxes being raised, i.e., if the Council does not pass a tax increase, the pledge to the Library does not have to be honored. Councilwoman Petty stated that she could not see Council making a \$300,000.00 pledge without at least a work shop with the residents but doesn't not feel the City has the money at this time and Council has not discussed a tax increase. She feels that the public should be in total agreement to help fund the Library addition. Councilman Gaworski stated that he knows we need a new Library but there are also other needs that the City has and how much should taxes be raised. He would also like to see a public hearing to hear the residents opinions as far as raising taxes to fund the Library addition. Councilman Reese stated that the Library cannot receive the balance of the \$6,000,000.00 in funds if Council does not pledge the \$300,000.00. He stated that the average homeowner would incur a \$45.00 tax increase over three years. If residents would be that upset over a tax increase they should be here at the meeting tonight to voice their concerns or disagreement about raising taxes. Councilwoman Petty stated she wants to make sure that all residents should be given the opportunity to voice their opinions before Council agrees to the funding request. Council President Blest stated the he basically felt the same as Councilman Reese. He was not in favor of a public hearing since we have already had a work shop and another public hearing. Councilwoman Churchill requested that the Resolution be changed to include the possibility of a tax increase. Mr. Aiken suggested adding a new paragraph including the possibility of a tax increase and that if the Council did not vote to approve a tax increase then the pledge would not be honored. Corky Viola and Senator Connor spoke again on behalf of the Library. Another vote was taken by Council regarding the Resolution. (Gaworski-yes, Petty-abstain, Churchill-yes, Reese-yes, Blest-yes)

4. Discussion of a possible Charter change to allow the City to levy special assessments on properties which utilize an inordinate level of City services or which may be in need of major capital improvements where specific properties would be the main beneficiaries of said improvements.

Mrs. Thomas stated that she is in the process of putting together information for Council's consideration. Councilwoman Churchill made a motion to table this item and it was seconded by Councilman Gaworski and passed unanimously.

#### New Business

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-41 providing a one time lump sum pension benefit to 3 retirees of the City of New Castle. Councilwoman Churchill read the Resolution. Councilwoman Churchill made a motion to adopt the Resolution and it was seconded by Councilman Gaworski and passed unanimously (Reese-yes-, Churchill-yes, Petty-abstain, Gaworski-yes, Blest-yes).

2. Reports from Councilwoman Petty and Mayor Klingmeyer on their attendance at the National League of Cities Conference. Mayor Klingmeyer gave an overview of the conference and the meeting that he attended. Councilwoman Petty also gave an overview of her meeting and workshops and showed pictures to Council of the 9th Ward which is still a disaster area and participated in Habitat for Humanity project by putting shingles on a home among other rebuilding projects.

3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-43, in support of the Delaware General Assembly adopting proposed legislation SB-4 which would make the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act applicable to the General Assembly. Council President Blest read the Resolution. Councilwoman Churchill made a motion that the Resolution be adopted. It was seconded by Councilwoman Petty and passed unanimously. (Churchill-yes, Petty-yes, Reese-yes, Gaworski-yes, Blest-yes)

4. Discussion of development of an Ordinance governing portable on demand storage (PODS) and other temporary storage units. Council President Blest like the County's Ordinance but would like one for the City that is more tailored to the City's needs. A workshop was scheduled for January 22, 2008 at 6:30.

5. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-44 for the City to join the DeLea Foundation Insurance Trust. Council read the Resolution. Councilman Reese made a motion that the Resolution be adopted. It was seconded by Councilman Gaworski and passed unanimously. (Petty-yes, Churchill-yes, Gaworski-yes, Reese-yes, Blest-yes).

6. Discussion of items to be requested for funding in the coming year from the Trustees. Chief McDerby requested another police vehicle from the Trustees. He also requested an electronic filing system as well as converting the car camera systems to DVD and at least 2 bicycles for the bicycle patrol. Councilman Reese said he would like to see the Trustees fund the full amount for the bicycle patrol and to request that the Trustees forgive the City's loan on the police station. Matthew Christopher requested a tractor with a scissor cutter and a security system for the Trolley Barn. Cathie Thomas requested to upgrade the City's website and software.

7. Motion, Discussion and Vote on the following Bank Resolutions:

a. to pay Wilkinson Roofing and Siding \$65,565.00 for roof restoration on the on the Bellanca Air Hanger. Motion was made to adopt the Resolution by Councilwoman Churchill and seconded by Councilman Gaworski and passed unanimously.

b. to pay De Lea Founders Insurance Trust \$39,730.00 for 1st installment of workers compensation coverage. Councilman Reese made a motion to adopt the Resolution and it was seconded by Councilman Gaworski. The Resolution passed unanimously.

c. to pay Stripe A Lot \$47,817.15 for street repairs. Councilwoman Churchill made a motion to adopt the Resolution and it was seconded by Councilman Gaworski. The Resolution passed unanimously (Gaworski-yes, Petty-yes, Churchill-yes, Reese-yes, Blest-yes).

8. Comments from the Floor. Senator Connor thanked Council for hosting the FOIA program as well as the Library funding project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

9. Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**City of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**  
**December 5, 2007**  
**6:30 p.m. — Special Meeting/Workshop**

**Present:**

President of Council William Blest  
Councilperson Janet Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

**Absent:**

Councilperson Donald Reese

**Also present:**

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas

A Special Meeting/Workshop was held, as a forum concerning proposed legislation before the Delaware State General Assembly, SB-4, which would make the provisions of the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) applicable to the General Assembly.

State Senator Dori Connor, who represents the City of New Castle, addressed the audience. Senator Connor gave some history on this matter and praised the work of Senator Karen Peterson for sponsoring SB-4, and her persistence in working on this issue.

Both Senators thanked New Castle resident Michael Heyman for his work in helping to put this meeting together.

Senator Peterson explained the reasoning behind the creation of SB-4. She emphasized the importance of two main benefits of the bill – that all meetings of the General Assembly would be open and that records relating to the General Assembly would be available to the public.

Senator Peterson said she expects some form of this bill to pass in 2008. To help in efforts to get this bill passed, Senator Peterson encouraged persons to contact their State representatives, asking them to support SB-4. She also said that supportive letters to the editor of newspapers would help.

Senator Connor said another benefit of SB-4 is that there would be sufficient notice of meetings and agendas would be published ahead of time.

Both Senators fielded questions and comments from the audience.

The workshop adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathryn C. Thomas  
City Administrator

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**City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**

**November 20, 2007**

**5:30 p.m. — Special Meeting**

Present:

President of Council William Blest

Councilperson Janet Churchill

Councilperson Teel Petty

Councilperson John Gaworski

Councilperson Donald Reese (arrived at 5:34 p.m.)

Also present:

Finance/Human Resources Director Marian Delaney

Guests: Sally Monigle of the Friends of Bellanca Airfield group

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Bank Resolution No. 2007-39, concerning a payment to Guardian Construction in the amount of \$29,029.50 for Phase I construction work on the Bellanca Air Hanger. Councilperson Churchill read the Resolution and a motion was made by Councilperson Churchill and seconded by Councilperson Gaworski. Councilperson Gaworski asked if all of the work under this Resolution had been performed to date. Sally Monigle stated that it had. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-40, to award the bid for additional work concerning restoration of the Bellanca Air Hanger. Councilperson Churchill read the Resolution and a motion was made by Councilperson Reese and seconded by Councilperson Churchill. Council President Blest noted that this contract is for Phase II of the restoration. It was Council's decision to award the Base Bid for Contract No. 5 to Joshi Construction in the amount of \$117,154.00. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion to approve the 2008 holiday schedule when New Castle City offices will be closed. Council proposed that the City offices will be closed on the following dates: January 1 and 21, 2008, February 18, 2008, March 21, 2008, May 26, 2008, July 4, 2008, September 1, 2008, November 4, 27 and 28, 2008, December 25 and 26, 2008 and January 1, 2009. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese and seconded by Councilperson Churchill. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and Council proceed to Executive Session by Council President Blest and seconded by Councilperson Churchill. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Executive Session concerning a personnel matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill DiAngelo

City Clerk

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**City of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**

**November 13, 2007**

**7:00 p.m. — Regular Council Meeting**

Present:

Council President William Blest

Councilperson Janet Churchill

Councilperson John Gaworski

Councilperson Donald Reese

**Absent:**

Councilperson Teel Petty

**Also present:**

City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Director of Public Services Matthew Christopher, City Solicitor Roger Akin, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, former Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino

Approval of Minutes by Date-- A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the minutes as presented, for October 9 (Public Hearing and Regular Meeting). It was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski and passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report—City Treasurer Janet Carlin stated that there was \$400.00 in petty cash on hand, \$555,488.91 total

monthly deposits, \$425,850.02 total cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts, \$2,451,296.20 in the Certificates of Deposits and De. Government Investment Pool and \$2,877,146.22 total cash on hand. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

Report from City Administrator—Mrs. Thomas stated that her report was in Council's packet, and also mentioned that the City has implemented a new recycling plan.

Approval of Staff Reports—The Police Report is part of Council's package as well as the Public Works' report. Councilperson Reese stated that any of the staff reports are available at the City office. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the staff reports as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

### **Grant Review**

Two grant requests for the Police Department were submitted in October for a 55" HDTV for the police community room and supplies to fingerprint children.

On October 1, 2007 the City deposited an additional \$100,000 received for the Bellanca project and paid \$39,577.75 in Bellanca invoices for Phase I work.

The City received \$62,161.79 from the Municipal Street Aid Funds from the State.

### **Communications**

A letter from Ms. Debby Pullan to the Council was read. Ms. Pullan noted the Council will be considering a sizeable contribution of City tax dollars to help fund the library renovation/expansion project. Ms. Pullan stated she believed a higher priority for funding from the City should be provision of City-paid health insurance benefits for New Castle City retired employees. Ms. Pullan serves as President of the AFSCME Union, representing the blue- and white-collar workers in the City.

It was noted the City Council will host a special forum concerning the Freedom of Information Act on December 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Councilperson Reese stated that Councilperson Petty and the Mayor were unavailable for tonight's meeting because they were at a National League of Cities Conference in New Orleans.

### **Business from the Floor**

Mr. Mike Heyman stated that he was in favor of the Council hosting the forum on the Freedom on Information Act and he encouraged all citizens to attend.

Mr. Chris Cashman spoke on behalf of the Library Committee. The Library has had virtually no updates since it was built in 1965. It needs more shelves, more books, wider aisles, room for DVD's, CD's, MP3 players, etc. It also is not ADA compliant. There is limited space for computers. There is also a need for a larger children's area and ideally they would like to develop an area for teens. The total cost for the project is \$6 million. The State will contribute approximately half of the project costs, or \$3 million, but the Library Board needs to match that contribution. The Trustees of the New Castle Common have contributed \$331,000 so far. The Family Academy will raise funds for the project. They are asking \$300,000 or 5% of the total project cost to be contributed from the City.

Business from the Mayor  
None.

Business from Council President  
None.

Unfinished Business

1. First and second reading of Ordinance No. 455, a proposal to increase income eligibility limits for persons to receive tax exemptions where those eligible would also have to be either disabled or over 65 years of age. Councilperson Churchill read the Ordinance for the first and second time.

### **New Business**

1. Discussion of a request from the Library Board for a contribution from the City to fund an addition to the Library and Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-37 in response to said request. Council President Blest read the Resolution. Councilperson Reese moved that the Motion be adopted. No one seconded the Motion and it died for lack of a second. The Council agreed that the matter could be discussed, even though no motion was on the table. Councilperson Gaworski stated that he felt Council needed to review the City's finances closer before agreeing to contribute to the Library fund. Councilperson Gaworski was agreeable to contributing, but said he felt that the City could not currently do this. It needs to be a budget item and should have been requested when Council was

considering their budget. Councilperson Churchill agreed with Councilperson Gaworski. Councilperson Churchill stated that there were other City concerns that need financial assistance from the City. Councilperson Reese said he favored the contribution, and that it could mean a modest tax increase of \$.06, which for a house like his would be about \$42, and further that it was for a short, limited time – only three years. Council President Blest stated that he spoke with Councilperson Petty and she was opposed to passing the Resolution as this item needs to be budgeted. Mr. Cashman stated that they were not looking for funds immediately, but that they were looking for Council to budget funds in the future budgets. Mr. Corky Viola gave a history on the Library and stated that the Trustees have previously funded the entire cost of the Library. Mr. Viola stated that the Board did not approach Council during the budget process because they had no clear cut amount at that time and felt it would be irresponsible to request an amount when they did not know how much to request. Now they are asking for a non-binding \$300,000 pledge from the City over three years. Dick Evans stated that he likes the idea for a non-binding pledge. He also stated that if the other money did not come through, i.e., from the State, County, etc., the Library Board would not expect the City Council make the contribution. Councilperson Churchill made a motion to table this item until next month so the Resolution could be reworded. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor, with the exception of Councilperson Reese who cast a Nay vote.

2. Discussion of a possible Charter change to allow the City to levy special assessments on properties which utilize an inordinate level of City services or which may be in need of major capital improvements where specific properties would be the main beneficiaries of said improvements. City Solicitor Roger Akin gave an overview of the possible changes. He cited businesses like the Farmer's Market using an inordinate amount of City resources such as police services. This would mean Council would request from the General Assembly the right to assess such businesses. Mr. Richard Stack spoke on behalf of the Farmer's Market. He asked if this applied to current services or services to be provided in the future and which commercial properties are being assessed. Councilperson Reese stated that he was concerned about police resources and road work. Council was in agreement that Mr. Akin should move forward with researching this item and it will be continued at the next Council meeting.

3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-36 approving a subdivision in the vicinity of McIntyre Drive and Washington Avenue. Councilperson Gaworski read the Resolution. Councilperson Reese made a Motion that the Resolution be passed. Councilperson Churchill seconded the Motion. Resolution passed unanimously.

4. Discussion to schedule a public hearing to consider proposed Ordinance No. 456 approving a major subdivision in the vicinity of 9th and School Sts. A public hearing was scheduled for December 11 at 6:30 p.m.

5. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-38, approving an amendment to the All Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City, to include repairs to the tide gate in the vicinity of the Buttonwood subdivision. Councilperson Gaworski read the Resolution. Councilperson Reese made a Motion to accept the Resolution. Councilperson Churchill seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Comments from the Floor. Earl Carpenter asked for an update on the Buttonwood drainage project. Council President Blest stated that it was almost completed.

7. A motion was made by Councilperson Churchill and seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously to go to Executive Session. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo  
City Clerk

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**City of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**  
**October 9, 2007**  
**6:30 p.m. — Public Hearing**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Janet Churchill  
Councilperson John Gaworski  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson Donald Reese

Also present:  
Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Director of Public Services Matthew Christopher, City Solicitor Roger Akin, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, former Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino

Public Hearing — A Public Hearing was held to discuss a stop sign proposed to be located at 7th Street where it intersects with Clayton Street. Councilperson Reese stated that this proposal was brought to him by a resident whose mother lives on 7th St. hoping that the stop signs would allow residents living on 7th St. to exit their cars. Council President Blest asked if traffic was particularly heavy on the weekends. Councilperson Reese stated that it was. Councilperson Reese asked Mr. Akin to look into banning all trucks and empty school buses from undesignated areas. There were concerns that existing parking spots would be lost with the placement of the stop signs. Mr. Reese wants to speak with the residents who will be most effected by the lost parking spots before having Council vote on it. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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## **City of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**

**October 9, 2007**

### **6:45 p.m. — Public Hearing**

**Present:**

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Janet Churchill  
Councilperson John Gaworski  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson Donald Reese

**Also present:**

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Director of Public Services Matthew Christopher, City Solicitor Roger Akin, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, former Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino

Public Hearing — A Public Hearing was held to discuss Ordinance No. 451 governing vacant buildings. Council is having a fourth reading on this Ordinance since a retroactive clause was added to the Ordinance at the last minute. Mr. D'Alessandro asked why the City is exempt and asked if the Trustees are exempt. There are currently approximately 25 vacant buildings at this time. Councilperson Churchill made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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## **City of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**

**October 9, 2007**

### **7:00 p.m. — Regular Council Meeting**

**Present:**

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Janet Churchill  
Councilperson John Gaworski  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson Donald Reese

**Also present:**

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Director of Public Services Matthew Christopher, City Solicitor Roger Akin, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, former Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino

Approval of Minutes by Date – A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the September 11, 2007 minutes as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski and passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report—City Treasurer Janet Carlin stated that there was \$400 in petty cash on hand, \$686,935.53 total cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts, \$2,031,807.72 in the Certificates of Deposits and De. Government Investment Pool and \$2,718,743.25 total cash on hand. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the treasurer's report as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

Report from City Administrator — The City Administrator's report is in Council's packet. Additionally, a \$50,000 grant was received from Senator Connor for fiscal year 2007/08 road and street repairs, and the new trash truck has been delivered. Frank DiSabatino, former Interim Director of Public Services, arranged to have one of the old trash trucks sold at the State auction. They handle all the paperwork and the truck went at auction for \$9,000. The State took 10% of the sales price for their fee. Council President Blest also introduced Matthew Christopher to the audience. Mr. Christopher is the new Director of Public Services.



Approval of Staff Reports — The Police Report is part of Council's package as well as the reports from Public Services, which include Public Works and Building. Councilperson Reese stated that any of the staff reports are available at the City office. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the staff reports as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

### **Grant Review**

The beginning balance for the Salle Grant for the Police Department was \$4,890.45. The balance at the end of the month was \$2,035.91.

The State of Delaware Drug Grant had a beginning balance of \$1,265.51. The balance at the end of the month was \$729.77.

The Grant funding for Bellanca had a beginning balance of \$166,800.49. One withdrawal was made and an additional deposition of \$100,000.00 in grant funding was made. The balance at the end of the month was \$266,555.49.

A \$50,000.00 grant was received from Senator Connor has been received for fiscal year 2007/08. The original request was for \$75,000.00.

A motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to accept the grant review as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously.

### **Communications**

Council President Blest received an e-mail from Janet Koczak regarding graffiti and street repair. Frank DiSabatino has spoken to Mrs. Koczak and told her of the City's repairs to be done.

Council President Blest received a letter from Tom Wilson regarding the car dealership at 6th and Chestnut Sts. Mr. Wilson felt the City is not doing anything regarding this problem and questioned if the City was receiving kick backs from the dealership. Council President Blest stated that he took offense to the characterization that the City was receiving kick backs. Mrs. Thomas stated that she has been looking into the problem and will contact Mr. Wilson.

City Administrator Thomas received a copy of a mass mailing calling into question safety of construction of a building. The mailing was from a California company called Laser. The bottom line was that the building that is being built is not using union workers, and it is expected the Laser company is pro-union. Further, the building in question is not within the City limits.

### **Business from the Floor**

An audience member asked about the Ordinance governing vacant buildings. Council President Blest gave another overview of the Ordinance.

### **Business from the Mayor**

None.

### **Business from Council President**

None.

### **Unfinished Business**

1. Fourth Reading, Motion, Discussion and Vote on Ordinance No. 451 Governing Vacant Buildings.—Council President Blest read the Ordinance in its entirety for the Fourth Reading. A motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to adopt Ordinance No. 451. It was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski. It was approved by Council with Council President Blest abstaining from voting as he is not in favor of the retroactive clause. (Reese-yes, Churchill-yes, Petty-yes, Gaworski-yes, Blest-abstaining.)

2. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-32, approving a stop sign proposed to be located at 7th and Clayton St. Councilperson Reese made a motion that this item be tabled until he can meet with the residents who will be affected by the lost parking spots if the stop signs are installed. Council agreed to table this matter.

3. Third Reading, Motion, Discussion and Vote on Ordinance No. 454 governing graffiti. Councilperson Reese read the third and final reading of the Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to adopt Ordinance No. 454. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

1. Discussion of the City's participation on the State PLUS Review Process. A meeting will be held on October 31 with Herb Inden of the State to conduct a PLUS Review prior to updating the Comprehensive Plan to get input from various state agencies as far as what their expectations are regarding the City's Comprehensive Plan.

2. Discussion to set a Public Hearing to increase income eligibility limits for persons to receive tax exemptions. A hearing was set for November 13 at 6:45 p.m.

3. Discussion of hiring a consultant to create a local emergency operations plan for the City of New Castle. After some discussion, Councilperson Churchill made a motion to accept the bid from Jim Weldin of Sumter Consulting. It was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski. It was passed by Council with Council President Blest abstaining. (Reese=yes, Churchill=yes, Petty=yes, Gaworski=yes, Blest-abstaining.)

4. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-33, approving additional road and street repair work to be done by the contractor who was the low bidder and awarded the original contract for the 2007 season, Stripe-A-Lot, whereby that contract would be amended to included added work. Councilperson Gaworski read the Resolution in its entirety. Mr. Christopher stated that it was more important to correct the erosion problem before fixing the roads. Councilperson Churchill made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2007-33. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously.

5. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-34, approving the City switching their workers compensation insurance coverage from the current carrier to a new workers compensation pool. Councilperson Churchill read the resolution in its entirety. Councilperson Churchill made a motion that the resolution be accepted. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously.

6. Discussion on issues related to trash collection and recycling within the City. City Administrator Thomas spoke on some of the different plans that DSWA is offering. Frank DiSabatino suggested that a workshop be scheduled to resolve these issues. Matthew Christopher spoke on what other towns he worked for and what was done to resolve trash issues. Councilperson Reese stated that he felt the City could not go wrong with the recycling plan wherein the City would pay DSWA \$1 per household if there were 500 households participating. Trash collection for restaurants and other commercial accounts and how to deal with staying within the Code was also discussed. Councilperson Churchill made a motion that a workshop be scheduled and it was seconded by Councilperson Petty. The workshop was scheduled for October 24 at 6 p.m. to address the recycling and trash issues.

7. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-35, implementing a formalized process for performance evaluation of the City Administrator. Council President Blest read the resolution in its entirety. Councilperson Reese made a motion that the resolution be accepted. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

8. Comments from the Floor.  
None.

9. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese and seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously to go to Executive Session. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007  
7:00 P.M.**

**Present:**

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson John Gaworski  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson Donald Reese

**Absent:**

Councilperson Janet Churchill

**Others Present:**

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino, City Solicitor Roger Akin, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

Council President Blest led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council President Blest also asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of events which occurred on September 11, 2001.

**Approval of Minutes by Date**

Councilperson Gaworski made a motion that the minutes, dated August 14, 2007, covering both a public hearing and the regular City Council meeting, be accepted as presented. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Carlin stated that there was \$400 in petty cash on hand, \$642,427.91 total cash in the Wilmington Trust accounts, \$1,548,281.84 in the Delaware Government Investment Pool and \$2,190,709.75 total cash on hand. Councilperson Reese made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Report from the City Administrator**

City Administrator's report was in Council's packet for their review and Mrs. Thomas noted that the street repairs for the City will begin very soon.

**Approval of Staff Reports**

Chief McDerby stated that the Police Department's reports were in Council's packets and advised Council that the FOP will not pursue altering the department's schedules.

**Grant Review**

None

**Communications**

Councilperson Petty was contacted by Lynn Sheridan asking when the two park benches she purchased would be installed. Mr. DiSabatino stated that the area where Ms. Sheridan wants the benches placed is Trustee property and the Trustees do not want the benches installed there.

**Business from the Mayor**

None

**Business from the Council President**

None

**Business from the Floor (concerning agenda items only)**

Kristen Almquist stated that she felt the City employees should be given a raise and that the money that is being spent on hiring a new Public Services Director would be better used in giving the employees raises.

Quite a few members of the audience spoke about the proposal to change the block of 7th St. between Tremont and Delaware to one way eastbound. Most, if not all of the audience members, were against this proposal. Councilperson Reese stated that he put this item on the agenda to get feedback from the residents as a way of trying to resolve some City traffic issues.

**Unfinished Business**

Third Reading, Motion, Discussion and Vote on Ordinance No. 451 governing vacant buildings. The Ordinance was amended to include a retroactive provision, which, in turn, meant that there was a major change to the Ordinance and that a second Public Hearing would be set for 6:45 p.m. on Oct. 9, to be followed by a Fourth Reading and possible adoption.

Discussion to develop a process for performance evaluation for the City Administrator. The original performance evaluation forms could not be located so a workshop was scheduled for

6 p.m. on September 26 to develop a new performance evaluation form.

Motion, Discussion and Vote to Approve Ron Bright as an Ice Cream Vendor to operate with the City of New Castle. The vendor did not appear in person and no further action will be taken by City Council.

**New Business:**

Discussion to set a Public Hearing for a STOP Sign proposed to be located on 7th Street at its intersection with Clayton Street. Chief McDerby stated that the stop sign is not necessary as a matter of public safety. A Public Hearing will be set for 6:30 p.m. on October 9 to discuss the matter further.

Discussion of forwarding to the Police Department a proposal to change the block of 7th Street between Tremont and Delaware Streets to one-way for traffic to only travel eastbound. After hearing from the audience members against this proposal, the proposal for this change was withdrawn.

Discussion to set a Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 454 governing items related to graffiti. Councilperson Reese requested that a public hearing be held to discuss this matter. Therefore, a hearing was set for 7 p.m. on September 26.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-30, approving an employment agreement for a new hire to fill the vacant position of Public Services Director. Mayor Klingmeyer was opposed to hiring the Public Services Director and felt that this matter

should be discussed in Executive Session. Council's decision was to approve the appointment of Matthew Christopher as Public Services Director provided Mr. Christopher passes the background checks.

Comments from the floor: None.

Executive Session concerning a matter of pending litigation and a personnel matter. Councilperson Reese made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Council retire to Executive Session. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle**  
**Tuesday – August 14, 2007 – 7 p.m.**

Present:

President of Council William Blest  
Councilperson Janet Churchill  
Councilperson John Gaworski  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson Donald Reese

**Others Present:**

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Roger Akin  
Lt. Adam Brams, Master Sgt. James Barnes

Council President Blest led the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes by Date**

Council Members requested minor changes to the Minutes in their packets and were so noted. Councilperson Churchill made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented or revised, as the case may be, for the dates of June 19, June 20, June 22, July 10, July 24, July 31 and August 9. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

City Treasurer Janet Carlin was unavailable for the meeting so Mrs. Thomas presented the Treasurer's Report. Mrs. Thomas stated that there was \$525,150.72 total cash in the Wilmington Trust accounts, \$600,020.23 in the De. Government Investment Pool, and \$1,125,170.95 total cash on hand. Councilperson Reese made a motion that the minutes be accepted as revised. Councilperson Churchill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Report from the City Administrator**

Mrs. Thomas stated that her report was in Council's packet but touched on a few items. First, the City Code has been updated and is accessible online through the City's website. Second, the City has received bids for the road and street repairs and this work will be underway.

**Approval of Staff Reports**

Lt. Brams stated that the Police Department's reports were in Council's packets and Lt. Brams introduced Officer Zachory T. Bascelli to Council. Officer Bascelli will begin working in the Police Department on September 3.

Councilperson Churchill made a motion that the staff reports be accepted as presented. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Grant Review**

Councilperson Churchill went over the grant review. Specifically, the Bellanca Project has received bids for three phases (roof replacement, site drainage improvements and building restoration) and stated that Council would award the bids on August 14. Details of a meeting held concerning the Western Gateway Project were included in the City Administrator's report.

**Business from the Floor (concerning agenda items only)**

Corky Viola spoke on behalf of the Friends of Bellanca Air Field and thanked the City for agreeing to be the overseeing administrator

for the funds.

Commendation presented to Master Sergeant James Barnes in honor of his service to the City of New Castle on the occasion of his retirement.

Councilperson Reese read Resolution 2007-30 recognizing Master Sgt. Barnes for his service to the City and thanked Master Sgt. Barnes for same.

### **Unfinished Business**

First and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 451 governing vacant buildings. Council President Blest read Ordinance No. 451. Council had quite a few changes to the ordinance and once the changes were approved by Mr. Akin, Councilperson Churchill made a motion to amend the Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-26, a request to expand an encroachment into the right-of-way to accommodate the proposed construction of a porch at 31 East 4th Street. Councilperson Churchill gave a brief overview of the resolution. DP&L has approved the homeowner's plan with respect to the gas valve. Council has some concerns regarding the Resolution and minor changes were made to it. Councilperson Reese made a motion to accept the Resolution as amended. Councilperson Churchill seconded the motion and a vote was taken. (Reese-yes, Churchill-yes, Petty-yes, Gaworski-yes, Blest-abstained from voting)

Discussion of process to move forward with the Comprehensive Plan Update. After a short discussion amongst Council Members and Doug Lloyd from URS, it was the general consensus of Council to move forward with the update, utilizing the firm of URS, as detailed in a proposal from the company.

### **New Business**

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-28, to Award the Bids for Phase I of Restoration Work to the Bellanca Airfield Service Hangar, funded by State and Federal Grants. After the Resolution was read Councilperson Reese made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski and passed unanimously.

2. Motion, Discussion and Vote to Approve Ron Bright as an Ice Cream Vendor to operate with the City of New Castle. This matter was tabled until the next scheduled Council meeting.

3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-29, to reopen for limited purposes contract negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police, concerning the issue of scheduling. After a reading of the Resolution, Council has some concerns regarding it and some changes were made to it. Councilperson Churchill made a motion to accept the Resolution as amended. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion and a vote was taken. (Gaworski-yes, Reese-yes, Churchill-yes, Petty-yes, Blest-yes)

4. Discussion to develop a process for performance evaluation for the City Administrator. Council President Blest suggested using the performance evaluation forms used for a previous City Administrator. This item was tabled and is to be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

### **Comments from the floor**

Mr. Thomas Wilson spoke to Council regarding different City issues such as development of a skate park; the operations of a commercial car dealer located at the corner of 6th and Chestnut Sts.; and the fact that he felt, as a City resident, the City is not capable of maintaining Battery Park and asked for Council's feelings on possibly contacting the State or County to take over the park.

Councilperson Churchill made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Council proceed to Executive Session. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**  
**Public Hearing**  
**Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle**  
**Tuesday – August 14, 2007 – 6:30 p.m.**

Present:  
President of Council William Blest  
Councilperson Janet Churchill  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson Donald Reese

Others Present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Roger Akin

A Public Hearing was held at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall to discuss Ordinance No. 451 governing vacant buildings. Council President Blest read the proposed ordinance. Mr. Blest stated that some members of the Planning Commission had an issue with the definition of "vacant" as described in the Ordinance. Therefore, after a short discussion, Council revised the Ordinance and Mr. Akin stated that the changes were acceptable. There were a few questions from the audience and Mr. Akin answered their questions. Councilperson Churchill made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Councilperson Petty. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2007, 5:00 P.M.  
CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 220 DELAWARE STREET**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson John Gaworski  
Councilperson Donald Reese

Absent:  
Councilperson Teel Petty

Others Present:  
City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Discussion was held concerning bids received for road and street repair projects within the City.

The City Administrator reported on contacts she had made with persons in other municipalities (DelDOT, Wilmington and Newark) who had experience working with the Stripe-A-Lot contractor, concerning road and street repairs. The reports for the most part were fairly favorable.

A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to approve Resolution 2007-27, awarding the road and street repair contract to the low bidder, Stripe-A-Lot, in the amount of \$148,470.64. Councilperson Churchill seconded the Motion. Councilpersons Reese, Churchill and Gaworski voted in favor of the Resolution and Council President Blest abstained. The motion passed with three votes in favor and one abstention.

Councilperson Churchill moved to enter into executive session concerning a collective bargaining matter, which was seconded by Councilperson Reese, with a unanimous aye vote.

This executive session was called to discuss collective bargaining concerning the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) union contract and a proposal from the City employees represented by the FOP to reopen contract negotiations for the purpose of discussing a change in the schedule which those employees work.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Cathryn C. Thomas, City Administrator

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CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2007, 5:00 P.M.  
CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 220 DELAWARE STREET

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty (arrived at 5:30)  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Absent:

Councilperson Donald Reese

Others Present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer (arrived at 5:20), City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Considerable discussion was held concerning bids received for road and street repair projects within the City. The following letter was received from the project engineer:

July 27, 2007

Cathryn Thomas  
City Manager  
220 Delaware Ave.  
New Castle, DE 19720-4816  
RE: Y2007 Street Paving, Contract No. 2007-01  
Bid Evaluation  
KEI Project #07-0101M  
Dear Cathryn,

Five bids were received for the referenced project. A review of the bids has been performed.  
Bids are as follows:

Engineer's Estimate	Percent Difference	
	\$228,829.32	
1) Stripe-A-Lot, Inc.	\$148,470.64	-35.12 %
2) Cirillo Bros., Inc.	\$173,143.45	-24.34 %
3) Daisy Construction, Co.	\$238,444.40	+ 4.20 %
4) Diamond Materials, LLC	\$248,893.40	+ 8.77 %
5) Sam's Construction, LLC	\$267,844.00	+17.05 %

Due to the wide cost difference between the Stripe-A-Lot's bid and the other bidders, I contacted Mr. Rick Romero to confirm his understanding of the Quality Assurance / Quality Control provisions contained in the specification. He assured me he understands the requirements set forth in the contract and can fully meet these requirements.

At this time, I am recommending award of the contract to Stripe-A-Lot, Inc., 55 Germay Dr., Wilmington, DE 19804 for the sum of \$148,470.64.

I can, if requested, provide a copy of the spreadsheet was used to evaluate the bids

Please contact me should you have and questions or comments.

Sincerely,

KERCHER ENGINEERING, INC.

Michael Baiocco, Project Manager

The City Council noted the vast difference of bid amounts among the contractors, and particularly discussed the low bid amount submitted by the contractor Stripe-A-Lot. The City Council had concerns about the low bidder and had questions about the quality of

work which would be provided.

Mr. DiSabatino said he had personally inspected some projects done by the Stripe-A-Lot contractor within the City of Wilmington. His opinion was the work was acceptable, however could have been of a higher quality than the finished product which he observed.

The Council concluded they would like additional information prior to making this decision. The City Administrator will contact other municipal officials who have worked with this contractor and inquire about their experiences. The question also arose about inspection of the work while it is being performed. The City Administrator will contact the engineer about this question.

The City Council agreed to meet in another special meeting to review the additional information and make a decision on the bid award. That will take place at the Town Hall, 201 Delaware St., at 5 p.m. on Thursday, August 9.

Councilperson Churchill moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilperson Petty, with a unanimous aye vote.

Councilperson Churchill moved to enter into executive session concerning a personnel matter, which was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski, with a unanimous aye vote.

The Council met in Executive Session to discuss candidates for the position of Public Services Director. The top four candidates were identified and will be requested to appear before the full Council for interviews on Monday, August 13 at the Town Hall, beginning at 6 p.m.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cathryn C. Thomas, City Administrator

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CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2007  
6:00 P.M.

Present:

Council President Blest  
Councilperson Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino

A Public Hearing was held to discuss the City's Recycling Program. Mike Parkowski of the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) gave a presentation of DSWA's different programs and which ones he thought best suited the City's needs. A brief question and answer period was held regarding the City's options. Mr. Parkowski felt that the best solution would be the single stream containers, wherein all recyclable materials would go into one container. Mr. Parkowski is to forward to Council a proposed contract for their review.

A discussion was held concerning the Buttonwood Tide Gate Repairs. Mr. DiSabatino distributed pictures of the tide gates to Council. Council President Blest stated that he did not know who owned the tide gates and, therefore, if the City does not own them, they should not be responsible for the repairs. Councilperson Petty said that in the past, the City had maintained this structure. City Administrator Thomas is to look into the matter to determine who the owner is and if it is the City, this issue will be addressed again by Council.

A discussion was held concerning how to dispose of excess bricks and pavers located at Battery Park. After a brief discussion it was decided that the City will offer the bricks/pavers to the residents of the City. Residents should contact the City to sign up and a specific date and time will be chosen for the bricks/pavers to be picked up.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2007**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Present:  
Councilperson Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Absent:  
President of Council William Blest

Others Present:  
Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Roger Akin, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Recreation Director Victor Santos

Councilperson Reese presided in the absence of President of Council Blest and brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY DATE**

A Motion was presented by Councilperson Churchill to accept the Minutes of June 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 2007. The Motion to accept the Minutes was seconded by Councilperson Petty. The Minutes were accepted as presented.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

City Treasurer Janet Carlin reported that there was \$400.00 in Total Petty Cash on Hand, \$213,913.61 in Total Monthly Deposits, Total cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts equaled \$417,626.48, \$698,632.23 in the Certificates of Deposit and De. Government Investment Pool and \$1,116,258.71 Total Cash on Hand. A Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was brought by Councilperson Churchill. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

**REPORT FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mrs. Thomas stated that her report was in Council's packet. She stated that Council did adopt the budget and that the taxes for City residents would increase to \$1.15.

**APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS**

Chief McDerby stated that his report was in Council's packet as well and mentioned a few personnel changes. Jamie Rogers was promoted to Sergeant and Gene Wood would be joining the police force.

Councilperson Gaworski stated that the Public Works report was in Council's packet.

**GRANT REVIEW**

Councilperson Churchill stated that the grant reviews were in Council's packets.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilperson Reese spoke on the request for a stop sign at 7th and South Sts. and Councilperson Petty spoke of loud noises coming from the businesses at the River's Edge Industrial Park. City Administrator Thomas said that she would have John Lloyd look into this matter.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mayor Klingmeyer spoke on Resolution 2007-14, turning the Banks Bldg. over to the Trustees. The Mayor stated that the building has no commercial value and if the Trustees were willing to repair and maintain the building, it should be turned over to them.

Councilperson Petty introduced the new Summer Camp Counselors to Council and the audience.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Motion, discussion and vote on Resolution No. 2007-14 transferring ownership of the Banks Building to the Trustees. Councilperson Churchill read the revised Resolution (Mr. Aiken made revisions to the one that was in Council's packet). After a brief discussion a vote was taken on the Resolution. (Gaworski-yes, Petty-no, Churchill-yes, Reese-yes.)

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion to schedule a Public Hearing and Special City council Meeting concerning the Recycling Program and other alternatives. A hearing has been scheduled for July 24, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
2. Report on seasonal work to be done on City streets. Councilperson Gaworski reviewed the list of streets/roads to be repaired and said that the City was ready to put these repairs out for bids.
3. Motion, discussion and vote on Resolution No. 2007-25, to pay \$55,681.00 to Insurance and Financial Services for the down payment and first installment for insurance premiums for the policy year 2007/08. Councilperson Churchill read the Resolution and a vote was taken. The Resolution was accepted unanimously.
4. Motion, discussion and vote on Resolution No. 2007-26, a request to expand an encroachment onto the right of way to accommodate the construction of a porch at 31 E. 4th St. Councilperson Churchill stated that after inspecting the premises, she noted that there is a gas valve in the pavement in front of the house and the proposed porch would cover the value. DP&L stated that the value has to be accessible. After a brief discussion Councilperson Churchill made a Motion to table this matter until the homeowner can speak with DP&L and see if the valve can be moved, at the homeowner's expense. Council voted to table the matter.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Churchill that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski and the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill F. DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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#### **CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE SPECIAL MEETING FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2007**

##### Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

##### Others Present:

City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Finance/HR Director Marian Delaney

Council President Blest called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

The Council members noted the budget is set with items tentatively approved to be included. Some added items, including needed personnel and equipment, result in an increase in expenses. Some items on the revenue side were also discussed, however no changes were made. It was noted the difficulty in accurate revenue projections for items such as building permits and transfer taxes, as there is no way to know what the level of activity will be for the coming budget year.

Council discussed the various tax rate scenarios. The Council discussed how the numbers would change for the rates of \$1.12, \$1.13, \$1.14 and \$1.15. After some discussion, the consensus of the Council members was that it was reasonable to raise the rate to \$1.15, considering the future fiscal challenges the City may face.

With no tax increase the previous year, the two year average with this increase is equal to about the annual rate of inflation. This also translates into \$24 more per year for City taxes for a property with an average assessed value, or \$2 per month for the majority of property owners who pay their taxes along with their mortgage. Councilperson Churchill reported on research showing average assessed values for various neighborhoods around the City and reported what increases the individual neighborhoods would realize. Those numbers confirmed the \$24 average

increase.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Churchill, Seconded by Councilperson Reese, to approve Resolution No. 2007-24, adopting the 2007/08 balanced budget, with \$5,102,517 in revenues and expenses, and setting the 2007/08 tax rate at \$1.15.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2007**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:  
City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Finance/HR Director Marian Delaney, City Accountant Greg Sarnecki

A presentation was given by Bob Mulligan of the Recycle Bank. This is a company that sets up programs in communities which offer residents incentives for recycling.

Council discussed the pilot recycling program in place for 500 properties, managed by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) and funded by tax dollars at a cost of \$1,000 per month. It was decided that a public hearing would be held concerning the pilot program and the various alternatives for the future of recycling in New Castle. The Public Hearing date will be set at the next regular City Council meeting on July 10, and will be a Special Meeting of the City Council, to include a public hearing and discussion. Finance Director Delaney verified to Council President Blest that the \$1000 per month recycling cost for the pilot program was included in the year-to-date landfill posting in the Public Services department.

Council then reviewed the latest draft budget. With no tax increase, there is a gap between the revenues and expenditures of a little more than \$70,000. This includes that \$225,000 of unexpended fund balance from previous years' funds will be applied to the current budget. It is estimated this would still leave about \$150,000 in unexpended fund balance available for use in the event it is needed.

Council members discussed the possibility of raising the tax rate from the current \$1.10 to \$1.13. City Accountant Mr. Sarnecki reported he had calculated that each cent of the tax rate equates to \$22,500. Therefore, a three cent increase in the rate would nearly balance the budget. Finance Director Delaney presented information to Council members listing the calculated tax revenue based on the current rate of \$1.10 through potential rates up to \$1.13.

City Administrator Thomas reported that a three cent increase equates to a percentage increase in the rate of 2.7. Councilperson Churchill reported her recent research showed the inflation rate at 2.6%. The Council members concurred that an increase close to the inflation rate may be reasonable.

Council President Blest suggested the rate could be raised four cents, which could put the City in an even better financial position. Councilperson Churchill said she could agree to a four cent increase.

Councilpersons Petty and Gaworski disagreed, noting that other taxes and government fees are increasing, such as those controlled by New Castle County, and therefore thought it better to hold the line at three cents for the increase in the City tax rate.

Council agreed this could be settled at the final meeting where the budget will be adopted, scheduled for June 22. At that time, Councilperson Reese is expected to be present and his opinion will be an important part of the final decision-making process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2007**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Absent:  
Councilperson Donald Reese

Others Present:  
City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Finance/HR Director Marian Delaney, City Accountant Greg Sarnecki

Council continued their budget workshop, reviewing the draft budget line by line, starting from where it was left off at the previous meeting, in the middle of the budget for Public Services.

A specific item discussed was the contribution the City has made in the past to the New Castle Senior Center. The Council members elected to the last two-year term agreed to a contribution of \$1,000 per month over a period of two years (coinciding with the Council term). Since April, 2007 and the election of the current Council members, this contribution has been continued. The current Council concurred that this level of contribution to the Senior Center was appropriate, and agreed that this level of funds should be included for this purpose in the 2007-08 budget.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to adjourn and retire to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and it was seconded by Councilperson Petty. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL HEARING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007  
7:00 P.M.**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Janet Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:  
Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Roger Akin, City Engineer David Athey, Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Blest introduced Roger Akin, Esquire to the audience. Mr. Akin is the new City Solicitor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY DATE**

A Motion was presented by Councilperson Churchill to accept the following minutes: May 2 workshop and special meeting, May 7 two public hearings, May 7 special meeting, May 8 public hearing, May 8 regular meeting, May 22 workshop and special meeting, May

29 workshop and special meeting, May 31 workshop and special meeting. The Motion to accept the Minutes to Date was seconded by Councilperson Petty. The minutes detailed above were accepted as presented.

#### APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

City Treasurer Janet Carlin reported that there was \$400.00 in Total Petty Cash on Hand, \$114,138.99 in Total Monthly Deposits, Total cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts equaled \$526,966.36, \$773,086.34 in the Certificates of Deposit and De. Government Investment Pool and \$1,300,052.70 Total Cash on Hand. A Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was brought by Councilperson Churchill. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

#### REPORT FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Thomas stated that her report was in Council's packet and gave a brief overview of the Western Gateway Project and informed the audience of the budget workshops the Council was conducting.

#### APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

Lt. Brams attended the meeting in Chief McDerby's absence and introduced Council to Gene Wood. Mr. Wood was recently offered a position with the New Castle City Police Department and has accepted. Lt. Brams also noted for Council that Ofc. Torres was not seriously injured in the altercation that occurred on June 9, 2007 and that he was back to work.

Mr. DiSabatino and Mr. Bergstrom stated they had nothing to offer other than the reports in Council's packet.

Councilperson Petty gave a brief overview of the Summer Recreation Program and announced that council was lowering the program registration fee to \$5.00.

#### GRANT REVIEW

There was no new Grant activity for the preceding month.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

President Blest read a letter from Kathy Tidball of the Arasapha Club thanking Council for their assistance with the May Market.

Council President Blest also read a letter from Gene Dempsey asking for permission to continue the Annual Antique Show which will be held on August 26, 2007.

#### BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Joseph DiAngelo informed Council that some members of the Planning Commission were concerned about Ordinance 451, specifically that if the property is vacant for 45 days or more that it would be considered vacant.

Marsha Corcoran, Mary Rispoli and Tina Mascillia all spoke regarding the skate board park and that the children need some place to ride their skate boards.

Ennio DiAlessandro asked about the Banks building and if the City did turn it over to the Trustees, would the City be compensated for it.

Council President Blest read a Resolution recognizing City employee Charles Fleetwood for 25 years of service to the City. Mr. Fleetwood was presented with a plaque and the Resolution.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Motion and vote to place STOP signs at the intersection of 5th and Delaware Sts. Council held a Public Hearing regarding this matter on May 8, 2007 and Council President Blest read Resolution 2007-23. A motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to accept the Resolution. Councilperson Petty seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously.
2. Discussion to schedule a Public Hearing to consider Ordinance No. 451 governing vacant buildings. A Public hearing has been scheduled for 8/14/07 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss this matter.
3. Motion, discussion and vote on Resolution No. 2007-14 transferring ownership of the Banks Building to the Trustees. After a brief discussion a vote was taken to move forward with talks with the Trustees to come to some type of resolution. (Churchill-yes, Gaworski-yes, Blest-yes, Petty-abstained from voting.)

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Report on findings and discussion concerning development of a skate board park. Councilperson Gaworski shared his findings with Council regarding other skate board parks around the state including expense, maintenance and upkeep. Council listened to the concerns of the residents and Councilperson Gaworski will look into this matter further.
2. Motion and Vote to appoint a Public Information Officer for the City of New Castle. Councilperson Churchill requested

that Council approve her as being named the Public Information Officer and after a short discussion Council voted unanimously that Councilperson Churchill is the City's Public Information Officer.

3. Motion discussion and vote to approve a vendor license requested from Brian McClain. After a brief discussion it was decided that Council would approve the license once Mr. McClain receives his paper work from the Dep't. of Health and with the understanding that a registered letter would be sent to the vendor who was previously given a license notifying him that since he has not used the license yet and it is already June, Council was giving his spot to another vendor. Councilperson Churchill made a Motion that Mr. McClain be approved for the vendor license. It was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski and passed unanimously.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Various audience members spoke again about the need for a skate board park or possibly changing the existing ordinance to allow skate boarding, with restrictions.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Churchill that the meeting be adjourned and Council proceed to Executive Session. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill F. DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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#### **CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE BUDGET WORKSHOP MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 6:00 P.M.**

##### Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Janet Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

##### Others Present:

City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Finance/HR Director Marian Delaney, City Accountant Greg Sarnecki

Council discussed a proposal to purchase a gas-powered pruner to be used the Beautification Committee and Public Works personnel at an estimated cost of about \$200.

The Mayor presented his budget to Council. Specifically, the Mayor would like funding and/or consideration for:

1. Up to \$1,000 reimbursement so that he may attend the National League of Cities Congress of Cities and Exposition;
2. Memorabilia to give to visitors to the City, when appropriate, as the Mayor is the Official welcoming committee for the City;
3. An increase in salary for John Lloyd, the City's Code Enforcement Officer, and making the position full-time;
4. Bike Racks for various City parks;
5. Doggie bag dispensers and receptacles;
6. Projection Screens for Council Meetings and Board of Adjustment Meetings.

The Mayor also suggested that the Council change the process by which the budget is adopted. That is, instead of adoption by Resolution, that the City Council follow the process of adoption by Ordinance, which would include three readings and a public hearing.

Code Enforcement Office John Lloyd discussed his employment with the City.

A presentation was made by Gargoyl Design to Council for consideration of redesigning the City's website.

Council reviewed line by line items in the revenue section of the budget and then the expense side of the budget.

The workshop was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2007**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:

City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Finance/HR Director Marian Delaney, City Accountant Greg Sarnecki

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. Council reviewed the City's revenues for the upcoming budget. It was felt that the City should take a much stronger approach regarding business licenses, especially at the Farmer's Market.
2. Insurance for the City was also discussed. It was felt that the City should stay with Zurich as its insurance carrier and use Mr. Robert Briggs as the City's agent/broker, due to a commitment by the carrier of either no increase in premiums for some coverages, and a slight decrease in premiums of 3% for other coverages.
3. Council President Blest discussed relieving the City Clerk of her obligation to attend all budget workshop meetings. Instead, the City Administrator would ensure that the meetings are recorded and provide a synopsis of the meetings to the City Clerk for preparation of the formal minutes.
4. Council also discussed possible yearly evaluations for the City Administrator.

Future meetings will be held on 6/11/07, 6/12/07 (regular Council meeting), 6/19/07, 6/20/07 and 6/22/07.

Councilperson Churchill made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill DiAngelo, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
BUDGET WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2007  
5:00 P.M.

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:

City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Finance/HR Supervisor Marian Delaney and City Accountant Greg Sarnecki

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Council reviewed the Human Resources budget. A discussion was held regarding the hiring of a new H.R. person as well as a Finance person.
2. Council also reviewed the Administration budget. Minor changes were made to the budget.
3. Ms. Delaney discussed with the Council the salary of the City Clerk. Council stated that the City's Charter does not allow for raises.
4. Council also discussed staffing for Public Services, as any hiring for this department will impact the budget. A request is being made for two additional Laborers and to upgrade one of the Equipment Operator positions to Mechanic/Equipment Operator. It was noted added Laborers are needed, since a few years ago the City was able to use two prison inmates per day to help with Public Works duties, and that free labor pool is no longer available to the City.

Council President Blest expressed his concern that the budget be completed and approved on time. Council discussed how best to make this happen and more meetings have been added to Council's calendar in order to review and revise the budget and have it completed on time. Council will meet again on 6/7/07 to review the City's revenues.

Future meetings will be held on 6/11/07, 6/12/07 (regular Council meeting), 6/19/07, 6/20/07 and 6/22/07.

Councilperson Churchill made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
BUDGET WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2007  
5:00 P.M.**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:  
City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Finance/HR Supervisor Marian Delaney

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Council reviewed the City Council Budget. Minor changes were made regarding contributions, advertising, transcription services and annual calendar/report.
2. Council also discussed the Recreation Program. Victor Santos is now in the process of scheduling trips. Council discussed changing the application fee and guidelines for the Recreation Program. The consensus of the Council was to lower the registration fee for the program from \$20 to \$5.
3. Ms. Delaney discussed staffing relative to the Human Resources and Finance departments, as any hiring for these departments will need to be considered in the budget.

Councilperson Churchill made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk



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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
BUDGET WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007  
6:00 P.M.**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:  
City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Richard Vonsten from DSWA gave a presentation about the recycling program and answered Council's questions. The DSWA's new program would be \$2.00 per customer per month using a 35 gal. Receptacle, which would include pick-up of recyclables every other week.
2. Mr. Frank DiSabatino presented the Public Services requests for the upcoming budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
BUDGET WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007  
6:00 P.M.**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:  
Mayor John F. Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, HR Supervisor/Finance Director Marian Delaney

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Chief McDerby presented his budget "wish list" to Council. Chief McDerby highlighted that new initiatives he is requesting include having the police station interior painted, financing for the Police Department to become accredited through CALEA, and replacing older video devices in patrol cars with new cameras and recording devices. Chief McDerby reported that overall, he is requesting a 5% budget increase from last year.

Council had a discussion regarding dates for the next budget workshops. The next meetings will be 6/5/07, 6/6/07, 6/8/07, 6/11/07 and 6/22/07.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:

City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, HR Supervisor/Finance Director Marian Delaney, City Accountant Greg Sarnecki and Planning Commission Chair Dr. Jack Norsworthy

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Norsworthy of the Planning Commission presented the Commission's "wish list" for the budget. They are requesting \$27,000 which includes a \$10,000 request for a yearly action plant report.

Mr. Gene Dempsey of the Beautification Committee stated that they were basically asking the Trustees to fund their request to purchase items for beautification. He requested that Council consider buying more flags. Mrs. Kristen Almquist also requested that \$12,000 be set aside for a garden/park person, similar to what is included currently in the budget.

2. Review of FY 2005/06 Audit. Mr. Greg Sarnicki gave an overview of the audit and made some suggestions that Council might want to follow, i.e., record liabilities, have a more efficient cash purchasing recording system, work on a cash-in/cash-out basis and possibly obtain new accounting software.

3. Motion and Vote to appoint Mr. Roger Akin as City Solicitor. Councilperson Churchill made a Motion that Roger Aiken be appointed the new City Solicitor and it was seconded by Councilperson Reese. The Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Council John Gaworski

Others Present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Officer Torre, City Solicitor James Harker, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY DATE

A Motion was presented by Councilperson Churchill to accept the Minutes of April 10, 16 and 24, 2007. The Motion to accept the Minutes was seconded by Councilperson Reese. The Minutes were accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

City Treasurer Janet Carlin reported that there was \$400.00 in Total Petty Cash on Hand, \$168,318.13 in Total Monthly Deposits, Total cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts equaled \$551,512.84, \$984,685.23 in the Certificates of Deposit and De. Government Investment

Pool and \$1,536,198.07 Total Cash on Hand. A Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was brought by Councilperson Reese. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Churchill. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

#### REPORT FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Thomas stated that her report was in Council's packet, however she additionally gave a brief overview of where the City is with the Western Gateway Project. Ms. Thomas also reported that the City will have some interruption of computer service between May 11 and 12 while new hardware is installed, during which time e-mail and Internet will not be available to City employees outside the Public Safety Dept. Ms. Thomas reported on a meeting with DelDOT and Deemers Landing concerning sidewalks to be installed. Finally, Ms. Thomas introduced the City's Summer Intern from the University of Delaware, Mr. Victor Santos, who is in charge of organizing and running the City's Summer Recreation program.

#### APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

Jeff Bergstrom stated that he had nothing to offer other than his report was in Council's packet as did Officer Torre.

#### GRANT REVIEW

Western Gateway--\$1,679.15 paid to LAS Services, the landscape designer.

\$73.00 paid to the Recorder of Deeds to file the Hubbard easement.

Reimbursement requests need to be submitted.

Buttonwood Drainage--\$2,036.30 paid to New Castle Conservation District.

The City is drawing down on grant money on hand and an additional \$25,000.00 was received on April 23, 2007.

Homeland Security--\$25,483.00 paid to Godwin Pumps for the emergency generator and a request for reimbursement has been sent.

Separation Day--\$398.42 has been paid for office supplies.

Drug Grant (Public Safety)--\$648.49 for staff time reimbursement and \$1,383.67 for supplies reimbursed.

SALLE Grant--\$1,383.67 reimbursement for Chief McDerby to attend the IACP Conference.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

President Blest received a letter from the Planning Commission with their recommendations regarding the request of the Trustees to rezone five properties.

Councilperson Reese received a complaint from a resident on 6th St. and stated that Council is looking into the matter.

Councilperson Gaworski attended the Delaware Safety Council meeting and stated that a new lane on the north and south bound of I-95 will be added which may impact the traffic situation in the City.

Councilperson Petty stated that she was in Dover for lobbying issues and met with George Wright and requested more money for street repairs.

#### BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Gene Petty asked that Council table Resolution 2007-2, rescinding Resolution 2006-24, because the Citizens Committee of Buttonwood has contacted the Attorney General's Office and asked them to review this matter.

David Bird stated that the Planning Commission has approved Items 3 and 4, two separate rezoning requests.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Motion, discussion and vote and Resolution 2007-02. After discussion, this matter was tabled so that Council can meet with the Goodwill Fire Co., Chief McDerby, DelDOT, Rep. Mike Mulrooney and residents who have an interest in the issue, so all parties have input.

2. Motion, discussion and vote and Resolution 2006-27, to install a handicap parking space in front of Wilmington Trust. The Resolution will be amended to specify that WTC will be responsible for the curb cut out and that they will make the front door to the bank handicap accessible. Councilperson Reese made a Motion that the Resolution be accepted. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

3. Third Reading, motion, discussion and vote on Ordinance 452, request of the Trustees to rezone five properties. After a

reading of the Ordinance and the Planning Commission's recommendations, a Motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to accept the Ordinance. Councilperson Reese seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously with Council's general consensus that this would bring the properties in question in line with the surrounding properties/businesses.

4. Third Reading, motion, discussion and vote on Ordinance 453, a request for rezoning within the Twin Spans industrial development. After a reading of the Ordinance and the Planning Commission's recommendations, a Motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the Ordinance. Councilperson Churchill seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion concerning the annual insurance renewal. Bob Briggs was present at the meeting and suggested that Council renew with Zurich as their rates are in line with other companies and Zurich has offered New Castle a 3% decrease in rates if they do renew. Councilperson Churchill made a Motion that the City stay with Bob Briggs as the City's Broker/Agent for insurance, and that the City renew for one year with Zurich as its insurance carrier. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously.

2. Motion and vote to approve a vendor license requested from Clifton Dunning. After a brief discussion it was decided that Council would approve the license with restrictions and the City had to be named as an additionally insured.

3. Motion on Resolution No. 2007-19, Discussion and Vote approving a check for \$25,483.00 to Godwin Pumps for the emergency generator. Councilperson Reese made a Motion that the Bank Resolution be accepted. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

4. Motion on Resolution No. 2007-20, Discussion and Vote to approve a minor subdivision for two lots on Cherry Lane. Mark Ziegler gave a brief presentation regarding this request. Councilperson Reese made a Motion that the Resolution be accepted. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

5. Motion on Resolution No. 2007-14, Discussion and Vote to approve the continued encroachment of improvements at 219 E. 2nd St. into the right-of-way of 2nd St. Councilperson Churchill made a Motion that the Resolution be accepted. Councilperson Reese seconded the Motion and it was passed unanimously.

6. Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a purchase contract for a new computer server for the City Administration. Councilperson Churchill stated that the costs for this project will be approximately \$13,388.00. It was a unanimous decision to authorize the Mayor to sign the purchase contract.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Mike Hayman discussed campaign finance and his thoughts on how it should be regulated.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Churchill that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill F. DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007  
6:45 P.M.**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Council John Gaworski

Others Present:  
City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Officer Torre

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Public Meeting was held on a proposal to discuss the placement of STOP signs at the intersection of 5th and Delaware Streets.

Councilperson Reese explained that the suggestion came from a resident who, coincidentally, was the same resident who requested STOP signs at 4th and Delaware St.

Councilperson Gaworski alerted Council to the fact that this may cause more accidents in that everyone stopped at the signs will want to be the first one to go.

Council President Blest stated that most of the accident on Delaware St. occur at 6th and Delaware and there is a red light at that intersection. Council President Blest also stated that the City puts up STOP signs in some instances to impede the flow of traffic thereby, deterring traffic from coming through the City.

David Bird stated that he was in favor of the STOP sign and that he had spoken with a few other residents and they also seemed to be in favor of the signs. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill F. DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007  
6:30 P.M.**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:  
City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A Public Hearing was held on a proposal to rezone five properties owned by the Trustees of New Castle Common.

Mr. Taylor, attorney for the Trustees and Mr. Mike Alfree were present on behalf of the Trustees. Mr. Taylor gave a presentation regarding which properties were to be rezoned and why the rezoning was being requested.

Mr. Richard Stark, representing 326 Associates, was in favor of the rezoning as it will be in conformity with the uses on the property he rents from the Trustees.

It was noted that the Comprehensive Plan would not have to be changed and that the Trustees were now asking to rezone only five properties as opposed to the seven properties in their original request. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:49 p.m., without any public comments on the proposal.

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
PUBLIC MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007  
7:00 P.M.**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:

City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing was held on a proposal to rezone two portions of one property owned by Newport Crossings LLC and/or HDC, Inc.

Mr. Sean Tucker, attorney for Newport Crossings LLC and/or HDC, Inc. gave a presentation regarding which properties were to be rezoned and why the rezoning was being requested.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:12 p.m., without any public comments on the proposal.

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL HEARING**

**MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007**

**7:15 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest

Councilperson Donald Reese

Councilperson Churchill

Councilperson Teel Petty

Councilperson John Gaworski

Others Present:

Mayor John F. Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. First and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 452 concerning a request from the Trustees to rezone five properties. Council President Blest read the Ordinance for the first and second time.
2. First and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 453 concerning a request from Newport Crossings, LLC and/or HDC, Inc. to rezone portions of Twin Spans Business Park. Council President Blest read the Ordinance for the first and second time.
3. Mrs. Thomas introduced Victor Santos, a graduate student who was hired as the City's summer intern, to run the City's recreation program.
4. Discussion with HVAC Engineer concerning the City Administration Bldg. Mr. Herbert Duffield inspected the system and stated that it is about 24 years old. The first thing Council needs to do is obtain a maintenance plan on the system. He also recommended that the City go with heat pumps when they upgrade. This will continue to yield cost savings, as the City does not pay the Municipal Services Commission for electric costs. Mr. Duffield gave some suggestions that the City can do now and at a relatively inexpensive cost until the system is replaced.

Councilperson Churchill made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned. Councilperson Petty seconded the Motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill DiAngelo, City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**

**WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2007**

**7:00 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest

Councilman Donald Reese

Councilwoman Churchill

Councilwoman Teel Petty  
Council John Gaworski

Others Present:

Mayor Jack Klingmeyer, City Administrator Cathryn C. Thomas

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A Workshop was held to discuss the new election laws with State Election Officials. Paul Baldwin, Howard Shawl, Elaine Manuel and Thomas Maddox were present from the various Departments of Elections and Mr. Baldwin basically went through the new election laws step by step and explained the changes to Council. The workshop was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

A Special Council Meeting was held for a Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-17, confirming Council's intent to have the 2003 Comprehensive Plan updated by 2008 and to use the U. of De. as the project consultant. Councilwoman Churchill made a Motion that the Resolution be accepted. It was seconded by Councilman Reese and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL HEARING  
ORGANIZATIONAL WORKSHOP  
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2007  
7:00 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilman Donald Reese  
Councilwoman Churchill  
Councilwoman Teel Petty  
Council John Gaworski

Others Present:

Cathryn Thomas, Janet Carlin and Marian Delaney

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and decision on City Council Departmental and other Liaison Assignments.

Donald Reese–Public Safety, MSC

Jan Churchill–Finance/Human Resources, Tree Commission, Battery Park Committee

Teel Petty–Parks and Buildings, Historic Area Commission

John Gaworski–Public Services, Planning Commission

Council President Blest explained that it was Council's tradition that the amount of votes (highest to lowest) would determine the order that the Council members chose which departments, committees, etc., they would be the liaisons for. Councilwoman Petty requested to continue to be the liaison for Public Services but as a Council member with more votes, Councilman Gaworski had already chosen to be the liaison to Public Services. Council President Blest stated that this was Council's tradition but if Councilwoman Petty wanted to vote on the issue, Council would vote. Council voted and it was decided to continue with the tradition. Councilwoman Petty stated that she felt that because it was tradition did not make it right.

4. Discussion with Technology Matrix concerning computer services for the City Administration and Public Services. Jamie Lincoln of Technology Matrix gave a short presentation regarding the computer upgrade project. The City Administration and Public Services would be hooked in MSC's computer system, server, etc. The cost is approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000.00. Councilwoman Churchill made a Motion that the City proceed with this project. It was seconded by Council President Blest and passed unanimously.

2. Motion and Resolution to appoint Wendy Voss, Esquire as Special Counsel to the City for union and other labor matters. Council President Blest read the Resolution, No. 2007-16. Councilwoman Churchill made a Motion that the Resolution be accepted. It was seconded by Councilwoman Petty and passed unanimously.

3. Motion and Resolution to approve a lease for a refuse truck. A Motion was made by Councilman Reese to sign the lease on the new garbage truck. It was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill and passed unanimously.

5. Discussion of priorities for the next two year term of the newly elected City Council. Council was asked to describe their goals for this coming Council session. Council felt the following items needed to be addressed during this new term.

Councilwoman Churchill

New software program, updated website, evacuation plan, monthly workshops, speed bumps, looking into hiring a new City Attorney, making the Public Works Director a permanent position, work on the comprehensive plan, traffic flow and additional parking.

Councilwoman Petty

Continue citywide street cleaning, working with older communities such as Washington Park, Dobbinsville, etc. to keep presentable, housing rental changes, grants for elderly and vacant homes to be renovated, more stop signs/speed bumps on De. St., repairs to alleys, painting parking lines on De. St., charter reform, getting residents to vote and looking into a park and ride to reduce traffic.

Councilman Gaworski

Skateboard park for kids or a Boys/Girls Club, traffic flow, especially truck traffic, repairing sidewalks, vacant houses and liked Councilwoman Petty's idea into looking at park and ride locations around the City.

Councilman Reese

Skateboard park or YMCA's within the city, traffic issues, landscaping, affordable housing for elderly residents, rejuvenating De. St., sending City Administrator to Dover to solicit grants, state money, funding, etc. for projects around the City.

Council President Blest

Gray St. property, comprehensive plan, getting Council to work within some type of time line with their ideas.

Dick Evans asked about the relationship between the Comprehensive Plan and Council's ideas. Council President Blest stated that Council will be involved in the Comprehensive Plan and that they have hired the U. of De. To put the plan together.

6. Determine date for review of the Annual City Audit. A review will be held on 5/8/07, prior to Council's regular monthly meeting.

7. Determine dates for city council Budget workshops. The workshops will be held on 5/22, 5/24, 5/29 and 5/31 at 6:00 p.m.

8. Determine date to review engineer's report on HVAC System for City Administration building. A review will be conducted on 5/7/07 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m. and Council met for Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill F. DiAngelo,

City Clerk

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## **CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**

### **CANVASSING OF THE VOTES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007**

**8:00 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest

Councilperson Donald Reese

Councilperson Janet Churchill

Councilperson Teel Petty

Others present: City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Finance/HR Supervisor Marian Delaney, Election Committee Chair Thomas Maddox

Thomas Maddox of the New Castle City Election Committee was present and read the votes as follows:

Mayor

Richard Evans 422

John Klingmeyer 446

S. Padmalingham 224

Council Members

Janet Churchill 606

Jan Clairmont 378

John Gaworski 576

Dr. Norsworthy 373



Teel Petty 479  
Donald Reese 658  
Wm. Robinette 344

Council President  
William Blest 600  
John DiMondi 453

Council Treasurer  
Janet Carlin 921

City Clerk  
Jill DiAngelo 984

Council President Blest thanked everyone for their hard work, including Cathryn Thomas, Marian Delaney, David Skupien and Dr. Maddox. Dr. Maddox thanked Council stating that he felt Council had made good selections for the City's Election Committee.

Marian Delaney advised Council that the '07 election records were being inventoried for future use and stored at the administration building. The '05 records had not been forwarded for storage at the administration building.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill F. DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2007  
6:45 P.M.**

Present:  
Council President William Blest  
Councilman Donald Reese  
Councilwoman Churchill  
Councilwoman Teel Petty  
Council John DiMondi

Others Present:  
Cathryn Thomas, Frank DiSabatino, Janet Carlin, James Harker, Esq., Mayor Klingmeyer

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Public Meeting was held on a proposal to address directional issues of traffic on 14th St. in Washington Park and to discuss the placement of STOP signs on 10th St. at its intersection with Young St. and on Young St. at its intersection with 10th St.

Councilman Reese explained why the meeting was being held and what Council hoped to accomplish. The residents of 14th St. would like access to 14th St. in both directions but only for local traffic, i.e., those residents who live on the street.

Councilman Reese also explained that he felt it was better to have actual STOP signs at 10th and Young Sts. because it seems that now everyone thinks they have the right of way.

Councilman DiMondi stated that this was originally his agenda item and asked why it was left off the agenda. City Administrator Thomas explained that it was inadvertently left off the agenda.

There were no other comments from the floor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2007  
7:00 P.M.**

Present:  
Council President William Blest

Councilman Donald Reese  
Councilwoman Churchill  
Councilwoman Teel Petty  
Council John DiMondi

Others Present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer, James Harker, Esquire, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Frank DiSabatino and Janet Carlin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES TO DATE

A Motion was presented by Councilwoman Churchill to accept the Minutes to Date. Councilman DiMondi objected to the Minutes of Council's March 13, 2007, Item #6. Councilman DiMondi stated that he did not make the statement in question and that he objected to having it in the Minutes. Councilman DiMondi requested a verbatim transcription of that portion of the meeting which we will be forwarded to him. Council President Blest objected to the Minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting, Item 4, in that Mr. Esdale did apply for a vendor's license but that he did not obtain one last year. The Motion to accept the Minutes to Date presented except for Items 4 and 6 was again made by Councilwoman Churchill and was seconded by Councilman Reese. Minutes to Date were accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

City Treasurer Janet Carlin was unable to stay at the meeting so City Administrator Thomas read the Treasurer's Report. Mrs. Thomas stated that there was \$679,502.53 total cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts, \$1,096,843.81 in the Certificates of Deposit and De. Government Investment Pool, \$679,502.53 in Total Checking and Savings Accounts and \$1,776,346.34 Total Cash on Hand. A Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was brought by Councilman Reese. The Motion was seconded by Council President Blest. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

REPORT FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Thomas stated that her report was in Council's packet and reminded the residents to vote and explained that absentee voting is allowed and how to go about obtaining the absentee ballots. Council President Blest also added that the Buttonwood Drainage Project was finally moving forward.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

Frank DiSabatino stated that he had nothing to offer other than his report was in Council's packet. Councilman DiMondi stated that he received the City's audit yesterday and that overall, all of the departments are in line. Councilman DiMondi stated that the audit should be made an agenda item and that the audit would be available on disc.

GRANT REVIEW

B-1 State of Delaware Department of Transportation—An agreement to transfer \$28,000.00 from DelDot to the City for the Buttonwood drainage project is on file. The Conservation District has completed the drawings and plans and has advertised the project for construction. The contract was tentatively awarded to EPB Associates, in the amount of \$184,140.00.

B-2 DelDot Agreement #06-P-PROG-70—The City has requested and it has been approved by DelDot to amend the initial agreement to add Municipal Blvd. To the list of specified streets, thereby allowing the City to invoice DelDot for the remaining available balance of \$33,437.00. The City invoiced DelDot for the paving and received reimbursement of \$33,437.00 and a check in that amount was received in March.

B-9 State of Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation—The City has received \$1,200.00 under this program. The funds are to be used for the maintenance of public trails and greenways to be used by October, 2007.

C-5 State Aid to Local Law Enforcement—The Public Safety Department has submitted an application in the amount of \$11,182.16, and it has been approved. The money is to be used for items such as taser guns, shotguns, a motorcycle box and related items.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilwoman Churchill received a letter from Verizon stating that they have replaced the lines around New Castle and that the low lying lines belong to Comcast and a letter from the Trustees regarding the Banks Bldg.

President Blest received correspondence from Frank Calio, State Election Commissioner regarding the documents needed to run the City elections, correspondence from Kathy Reager regarding the Battery Park beach clean up, a request from a resident that Muslim holidays should be included on the City's calendar and a letter from Enoch Carter asking if the City would be interested in buying his property located at 43 Holcomb Lane.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Lynn Sheridan asked if there were any provisions that, should Council convey ownership to the Trustees, that they will not be able to turn it into a commercial property or personal use property. Councilwoman Churchill stated that if Council is inclined to convey ownership of the building, those types of concerns could be written into the Resolution.

Earl Carpenter asked in there were other religious holidays in the City's calendar and where they in there because the City employees have off on those days.

Charlotte Houben asked why the outgoing Council was making appointments to committees and why those appointments are not left up to the incoming Council.

#### BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Klingmeyer spoke about the Cingular Towers and asked that Council discuss the matter with MSC since MSC has already had the problem reviewed.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Motion on Resolution No. 2007-12, Discussion and Vote to address the directional issues of traffic on 14th St. and 10th & Young Sts. Councilwoman Churchill mad a motion that the Resolution be accepted. It was seconded by Councilman Reese and accepted by all of Council with a few revisions.
2. Third Reading, Motion Discussion and Vote on Ordinance No. 450, adding a section to the New Castle City Code regulating the feeding of wildlife on City and other public property. Councilwoman Churchill read the Ordinance and made a motion that the Ordinance be accepted. It was seconded by Councilman Reese. Councilman DiMondi said he took exception to this Ordinance governing private property. Councilwoman Churchill said she had no problem with that and the motion was passed unanimously.
3. Discussion on a request from Elaine Pataky, the property owner of 603 Center St. to connect to a water service line on a property owned by the City (601 Center St.). Councilman Reese suggested that they allow Ms. Pataky to hook up to the water service line and that the City and Ms. Pataky would split the cost. Councilman DiMondi stated that he th ought Ms. Pataky should only be responsible for 25% of the cost since 601 Center St. can actually be split and sold as 3 properties. James Harker, Esquire stated that the City would need to draw up an agreement between the City and Ms. Pataky.
4. Discussion to schedule a Public Hearing to consider a request from the Trustees to rezone several properties owned by the Trustees. It was determined that a Public Hearing will be set for 5/7/07.
5. Discussion to schedule a Public Hearing to consider a request from Newport Crossings, LLC and/or HDC, Inc. to rezone portions of the Twin Spans Business Park. Shawn Tucker, Esquire gave a short speech stating which portions are to be rezoned and why. It was determined that a Public Hearing will be set for 5/7/07.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to appoint a member of the Planning Commission to the Historic Area Commission. The Planning Commission requested that David Byrd be appointed. A Motion to appoint Mr. Byrd was made by Councilwoman Churchill and seconded by Councilman Reese and passed unanimously.
2. Motion on Resolution No. 2007-14, Discussion and Vote to transfer ownership of the Banks Building to the Trustees. After a discussion and hearing from all parties, Council President Blest mad a Motion that Mr. Harker should work with counsel for the Trustees to see what type of arrangement can be worked out. The Motion passed with Councilman DiMondi dissenting stating that he would agree to lease the building but not to sell it.
3. Motion on Resolution No. 2007-14, Discussion and Vote to allow the continued encroachment of improvements to a private property at 908 Clayton St. into the right of way of Clayton St. The Resolution was read and a Motion was made by Councilman Reese. It was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill and passed unanimously.
4. Discussion on the Administrator's use of outside legal counsel. Councilman DiMondi questioned the City Administrator's authority to use outside legal counsel. Council President Blest stated that the City has been using this particular attorney for approximately 10 years and she is consulted mainly for labor issues. Mr. Harker is the City solicitor but he is not specialized in labor relations. Councilman DiMondi stated that he felt the cost of using the attorney necessitated some type of authorization or a consensus by Council.
5. Motion on Resolution No. 2007-14, Discussion and Vote to approve a minor subdivision for 2 the Strand and 102 Delaware St. Council President Blest read the Resolution and Councilwoman Churchill made a Motion that the Resolution be accepted. Councilman Reese seconded the Motion and it was passed unanimously.
6. Motion to confirm appointments by the Mayor of the following members of the Planning Commission, all with terms ending April, 2010. George Freebery, Thomas Wilson and James Steele. Councilman Reese made a Motion that the Mayor's appointments be confirmed and Councilwoman Churchill seconded it. The Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Councilman Reese that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill and the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill F. DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 13, 2007**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John DiMondi

Others Present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Solicitor James Harker, Master Sgt. James Barnes, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino and City Engineer David Athey

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was presented by Councilperson Churchill to accept the minutes of February 13, 2007, for the Public Hearing, Regular Meeting and Executive Session and the minutes of the March 1, 2007 Special meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Petty. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer Janet Carlin was unable to attend the meeting. City Administrator Thomas stated that there was \$514,258.94 total cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts, \$1,412,943.93 in the Certificates of Deposit and De. Government Investment Pool and \$1,927,202.87 Total Cash on Hand. A Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was brought by Councilperson Reese. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Churchill. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Report from the City Administrator

Mrs. Thomas stated that her report was in Council's packet and added that we were using the new recording system and explained the details of the system. Councilperson DiMondi asked the City Administrator for an update on the new garbage truck the City had ordered. Mrs. Thomas referred that question to Mr. DiSabatino. He stated that the chassis for the truck was not ready yet and that they hoped to have the truck sometime this month.

Approval of Staff Reports

Master Sgt. Barnes and Mr. DiSabatino stated that they had nothing to offer other than their reports that were in Council's packet. Councilperson DiMondi stated that the City's audit was almost complete and should be available for review within the next or so.

Grant Review

B-2 DelDot Agreement #06-P-PROG-70-The City has requested and it has been approved by DelDot to amend the initial agreement to add Municipal Blvd. To the list of specified streets, thereby allowing the City to invoice DelDot for the remaining available balance of \$33,437.00. The City invoiced DelDot for the paving and received reimbursement of \$33,437.00 this month.

Bellanca Air Service Hangar-The City will act as the fiscal agent in administering grants from the State level through a \$300,000.00 grant from the Department of Transportation and from the Federal level through a \$295,832.00 grant from Save America's Treasures. A check in the amount of \$200,000.00 was received in November, 2006 and the City has signed a contract with Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers, not to exceed \$69,000.00 for engineering services in connection with the recommended improvements to the Hangar.

Communications

Council President Blest received an invitation from the First Baptist Church inviting Council to their Patriotic Sunday on May 6, 2007.

Business from the Floor

John Goworski asked if Council had passed the Compression Brake Ordinance. Council stated that it had and there was short

discussion on whether signs should be posted. It was felt that a notice should be placed in the newspaper and that temporary signs should be posted.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Discussion, First and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 450, adding a section to the New Castle City Code regulating the feeding of wildlife on City and other public property. Councilperson Churchill read the Ordinance.
2. Discussion on Ordinance No. 451, governing vacant buildings, similar to what is contained in the Wilmington City Code and to schedule a public hearing for said Ordinance on April 10, 2007. Council President Blest briefly described the proposed Ordinance and asked Council to read it and give him their input. A Motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to send the matter to the Planning Commission and was seconded by Councilperson Petty. The Motion passed unanimously.
3. Third Reading, Motion, Discussion and Vote on Ordinance No. 444, amending the zoning Code to grandfather front yard setbacks in the R-1 classification legislated non-conforming by the Amended Zoning Act of 1968. Councilperson DiMondi read the proposed Ordinance and a Motion was made by Councilperson Reese. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

#### New Business

1. Discussion on a request from MSC for the City to commence condemnation proceedings for a property required for public purposes. Mr. Patterson, the MSC Secretary, spoke on this matter and requested that Council begin condemnation proceedings on the property owned by Paul McConnell (Centerpoint) to allow MSC to run water, electrical, etc. services to the Riverbend development. Mr. Patterson stated that they have had no success in negotiating with Mr. McConnell. Mr. McConnell was present and requested that Council not begin the proceedings since MSC was unwilling to explain to him why MSC wanted that particular part of his property and if there were any alternatives. Council President Blest requested that City Solicitor Harker schedule a meeting among all concerned parties before the end of the month to see if some type of resolution can be accomplished before Council considers condemnation proceedings, since it was Council's general feeling that they use condemnation proceedings as a last resort.
2. Discussion on a request from Elaine Pataky, the property owner of 603 Center St. to connect to a water service line on a property owned by the City (601 Center St.). After hearing from Ms. Pataky and Mr. Patterson, Councilperson Reese made a Motion that this matter be tabled until Council has all the information regarding these properties. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously. Councilperson Reese will follow-up with all concerned parties.
3. Discussion of withdrawing proposed Ordinance No. 446, amending the Zoning Code of the City of New Castle by requiring approval of utility plans by MSC prior to a building permit being issued. Mr. Patterson requested, at the urging of Mr. Shawn Tucker, attorney for Harvey Development, that this matter be withdrawn until such time as MSC and developers/contractors can reach an agreement on policies and procedures. Councilperson Reese withdrew the Ordinance and the withdrawal was passed unanimously.
4. Discussion and approval of a request for a Vendor License for a Hot Dog Cart. Chris Esdale applied to the City for a vendor license. Mr. Esdale owns Chris' Sandwich Cart and was given a vendor license last year. Council President Blest made a Motion that Mr. Esdale be given the vendor license. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.
5. Discussion to alter the configuration of one way traffic on 14th St. in Washington Park. Councilperson Reese explained why the residents on 14th St. are requesting that the traffic pattern be changed and Council President Blest stated that he felt the Chief of Police should be contacted and give his opinion regarding this matter. A Public Hearing will be held on this matter on April 10, 2006 at 6:45 p.m.
6. Discussion on trash collection issues raised initially by Councilperson DiMondi. Councilperson DiMondi requested that a letter be sent to St. Anthony's Club informing them that the City will no longer provide them with garbage pickup. It was brought up that there are other businesses/residences in the City in the same situation. Mr. DiSabatino made a list of properties that fall into this category. Councilperson DiMondi did not wish to discuss this matter at the meeting and made a Motion that this matter be tabled. Councilperson Reese seconded the Motion and it was passed unanimously.
7. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-8, approving wage increases for non-union, part time, seasonal and temporary employees equivalent to increases for employees covered under the AFSCME Union Contract. Councilperson DiMondi read the Resolution and there was no Motion to accept the Resolution and, therefore, the Resolution died on the table.
8. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-10, to make available to the Mayor or any member of the City Council, upon request by same, any documents or information paid for with taxpayer monies. Councilperson DiMondi read the Resolution and there was no Motion to accept the Resolution and, therefore, the Resolution died on the table.
9. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-11, to appropriate up to \$25,000 for free enrollment and participation to any City eligible youth in the 2007 Summer City Recreation Program. Councilperson DiMondi read the Resolution and there was no

Motion to accept the Resolution and, therefore, the Resolution died on the table.

10. Confirmation of the Mayor's appointment to the Planning Commission. The Mayor has appointed William Simpson and David Byrd to replace Melissa Pavone and Jane Miller on the Planning Commission. A Motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to accept the Mayor's appointments and it was seconded by Councilperson Petty. The Motion passed unanimously.

11. Comments from the Floor. Mr. Earl Carpenter asked if the vendor license for the hot dog cart was for one location only. Council confirmed that it was. Mr. David Byrd was in the audience and thanked the Mayor and Council for their appointment of him to the Planning Commission.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Reese that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill F. DiAngelo  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2007  
7:00 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John DiMondi

Also present:

City Solicitor James Harker, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

Approval of Minutes

The following City Council Minutes were approved, as submitted:

December 12 & 20, 2006; Jan. 9, 2007 (Public Hearing, Regular Meeting and Executive Session)

Approval of Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer Janet Carlin was unavailable for the meeting so City Administrator Thomas stated that the Total Monthly Payables were \$405,791.01, a total of \$507,932.32 in the Wilmington Trust Accounts. \$1,585,557.59 in the Certificates of Deposit and DE Government Investment Pool and \$2,093,489.91 Total Cash on Hand. A Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was brought by Councilperson Reese. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Churchill. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Report from City Administrator

City Administrator Thomas reported that the City is experiencing technical problems with the telephone lines, e-mail system, internet system, etc., and that they have already been in contact with the vendor and the problems are being corrected.

Approval of Staff Reports

Chief McDerby, Frank DiSabatino and Jeff Bergstrom stated that they had nothing additional to add as their reports were in Council's packets.

Councilperson DiMondi stated that the YTD expenditures are at approximately 55.5% and revenues were at approximately 83.3%. Councilperson DiMondi also stated that he was expecting the finished audit in the very near future.

Grant Review

B-7 State of Delaware - Municipal Street Aid Fund—An appropriation in the amount of \$58,308.40 was received by the City in January from the State of Delaware for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

B-13 DelDot Agreement #06-P-PROG-163--The City has been approved for \$19,062.00 from DelDot's Annual Capital Improvement Program for specified paving projects. The City has received 10% of the funding. The project has been completed and the City has requested reimbursement in the amount of \$17,155.80.

C-6 State of Delaware Department of Public Safety--The Public Safety Department has submitted an application for and been approved funds in the amount of \$7,113.85 from the Emergency Illegal Drug Enforcement Program for 168.75 of drug enforcement overtime.

C-7 US Department of Justice-Bulletproof Vest Partnership--Safety--The Public Safety Department has submitted an application for and been approved funds in the amount of \$1,121.16 for 50% reimbursement of the purchase of three bulletproof vests.

#### Communications

Councilperson Churchill received a letter from Gray St. Subdivision Maintenance Committee requesting the authority to place "No Trespassing" signs on the rear of their properties as there is quite a bit of pedestrian foot traffic to and from Susi Park and other activities. If the signs do not work the Committee is requesting the help of Council in rectifying the problem.

Council President Blest received an invitation from the State of Delaware Historical Affairs to attend their meeting on March 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Council President Blest also received a letter from Bonnie White regarding the landlord issue. Ms. White was not happy with the application as it requests the social security numbers of tenants and birth dates and she felt this information was not necessary.

Council President Blest also received communications from DelDOT informing Council of their intent to raise prices (i.e., E-Z Pass, etc) in order to increase their budget.

#### Business from the Floor

There was no business from the floor.

#### Business from the Mayor

The Mayor was not present at the meeting and, therefore, there was no business from the Mayor.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Discussion, First and Second Reading proposed Ordinance 447, amending §166-7 of the City Code by adding a new section under (d) Engine Compression Brakes. Councilperson DiMondi recited the First and Second Reading. The Third Reading will be held at a public meeting scheduled for March 1, 2007.
2. Discussion to schedule a public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 444, amending the Zoning Code to grandfather front yard setbacks in the R-1 classification legislated non-conforming by the Amended Zoning Act of 1968. Councilperson DiMondi read the proposed ordinance and a public hearing on this matter is set for March 1, 2007.
3. Discussion, Third Reading of Ordinance 448, amending Chapter 171 of the City Code: Parades and Public Assemblies, proposing a new fee structure taking into account the status of an applicant, i.e., non-profit group based in the City of New Castle, versus any groups that are not non-profit and/or based within the City. The amendment to the ordinance changes the application fee from \$50.00 to \$5.00. Councilperson Churchill made a motion that the Ordinance be passed. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion and the Ordinance passed unanimously.

#### New Business

1. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-05, approving a minor subdivision for property located on Johnson Way in Centerpoint Industrial Park. Mark Ziegler of McBride and Ziegler made a presentation to Council and a motion was made by Councilperson Reese to approve the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.
2. Resolution No. 2007-6 in Memory of Senior Airman Elizabeth A. Loncki, who was killed in the war in Iraq while serving in the United States Air Force. The Resolution was read by Councilperson Churchill. Councilperson Reese made a motion to approve the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously. The Resolution will be presented to Elizabeth Loncki's family.

3. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-7, adopting the Rules of Procedure for the Board of Building Appeals. The Resolution was read by Council President Blest.  
A motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to approve the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously.
4. Motion to appoint David Skupien as the Absentee Ballot Clerk for the 2007 City Elections. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to approve David Skupien as the Absentee Ballot Clerk for the 2007 City Elections. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously.
5. Discussion of requests from City residents to have vacated portions of 12th and 13th Streets in Baldton. After a short discussion, it was decided that these requests were more involved than just vacating a paper street. Council decided that these matters would be handled on a case by case basis and that the requesting party would have to hire private counsel and have a title search performed, etc., at their expense, and once all of the requirements were met, the paperwork would be turned over to the City Solicitor for recommendations to Council.
6. Discussion on Ordinance governing vacant buildings, similar to what is contained in the Wilmington City Code. After discussing why the City should enact such an Ordinance, Council President Blest opened the matter up for discussion with Council. Council felt that there were good points and bad points to Wilmington's Code and it was decided that Council will move forward in enacting their own Code, using the Wilmington Code as a base to work from, and modifying it to meet the needs of the City of New Castle.
7. Discussion to refer to the Planning Commission a request from Newport Crossing, LLC and/or HDC, Inc. to rezone portions of the Twin Spans Business Park. Shawn Tucker, Esquire and Mark Ziegler made a presentation to Council. After discussing the matter,  
a motion was made by Councilperson Churchill to send this matter to the Planning Commission. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously.
8. Discussion, First and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 449, approving a major subdivision for the Riverbend Development. Councilperson DiMondi presented the First and Second Reading of the Ordinance. The Third Reading will be held at a public meeting scheduled for March 1, 2007.
9. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-8, approving wage increases for non-union, part time, seasonal and temporary employees equivalent to the increases for employees covered under the AFSCME union contract. Councilperson DiMondi read the Resolution. Councilperson DiMondi made a motion to approve the proposed Resolution. The motion died for lack of a second.
10. Discussion and scheduling of a public hearing to consider proposed Ordinance No. 450, adding a section to the New Castle City Code regulating the feeding of wildlife on City and other public property. Councilperson Churchill read the proposed Ordinance. A public hearing on this matter is scheduled for March 13, 2007, at 6:45 p.m.

#### Comments from the Floor

There were no comments from the floor.

A motion was made to go to Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and collective bargaining and the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session and the meeting was continued at 9:17 p.m.

#### New Business (con't.)

13. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-9 concerning Censure of City Councilperson DiMondi for inappropriate conduct impacting on City business. Upon returning from Executive Session, City Solicitor Harker stated that personnel issues should be kept out of the public forum, hence the need for Executive Session. Council President Blest read the Resolution and it was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2007**  
**6:45 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Councilperson John DiMondi

Also present:

City Solicitor James Harker, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Interim Director of Public Services Frank DiSabatino, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

A Public Hearing was held to discuss Ordinance No. 447, to amend §166-7 of the City Code by adding a new section under (d) Engine Compression Brakes: No person shall operate an engine compression brake within the City of New Castle limits, with the exception of emergency situations. Councilperson DiMondi stated what the amendment would do. There were no comments from the audience and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill F. DiAngelo,  
City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**JANUARY 9, 2007**  
**6:45 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese  
Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Council John DiMondi

Also present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Solicitor James Harker, City Engineer David Athey, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

A Public Hearing was held to discuss Ordinance No. 448, to Amend Chapter 171 of the City Code: Parades and Public Assemblies, proposing the application fee be changed and lowered from \$50 to \$5.

There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill F. DiAngelo, City Clerk

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**CITY COUNCIL OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JANUARY 9, 2007**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilperson Donald Reese

Councilperson Churchill  
Councilperson Teel Petty  
Council John DiMondi

Also present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Solicitor James Harker, City Engineer David Athey, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

#### Approval of Minutes

The Minutes for Council's December, 2006 meeting were not available as the tapes were being copied, but the minutes to Council's Public Hearing and Regular Meeting for November 14, 2006 were presented and approved as presented.

#### Approval of Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer Janet Carlin stated that there was a total of \$400.00 in the Petty Cash on Hand, \$346,258.76 in total Monthly Deposits, a total of \$476,432.55 in the Wilmington Trust Accounts. \$1,718,008.30 in the Certificates of Deposit and Delaware Government Investment Pool and \$2,194,440.85 Total Cash on Hand. A Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was brought by Councilperson Reese. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Churchill. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

#### Report from City Administrator

City Administrator Thomas reported that the goal to mail the City Annual Report Calendars by the end of the year would not be met, however the calendars would be mailed as soon as possible after the first of the year.

#### Approval of Staff Reports

Chief McDerby informed Council that he checked on the 2nd and Chestnut St. question presented at December's meeting and that the end of Chestnut St. is actually a street, not a parking lot or dead end.

Councilperson DiMondi stated that the City has approximately a 5% cushion in the budget, but doubted that it would still be there at the end of the year.

#### Grant Review

A-4 State of Delaware Livable Delaware Fund--The City's request for a Livable Delaware fund matching grant in the amount of \$10,000 was approved to update the Comprehensive Plan.

C-2 Delaware Emergency Management Agency--The New Castle Citizen's Corps Council has requested and been approved for \$3,000.00 in State Homeland Security Grant Program funds. The website has been completed and can be found at [www.newcastlepd.us](http://www.newcastlepd.us)

Bellanca Air Service Hanger--The City will act as the fiscal agent in administering grants from the State level through a \$300,000.00 grant from the Department of Transportation and from the Federal level through a \$295,832.00 grant from Save America's Treasures.

#### Communications

Councilperson Churchill received a letter from Bonnie White regarding the landlord issue. Ms. White was not happy with the application as it requires the social security number and birth dates of the landlords and she felt this information was not necessary.

Council received a letter from the new officers of Good-Will Fire Company and they are opposed to the closing of Howell Dr. in Buttonwood.

#### Business from the Floor

Mr. Gene Petty spoke on behalf of the residents of Buttonwood and stated that Howell Dr. was never meant to be a street in the first place. Ms. Victoria Garrett stated that she appreciated the concerns of the Fire Company, but the safety of the children in Buttonwood is what is most important. Rev. Aaron Moore stated that he would like the road kept closed as did Ms. Consuela Jenkins and Mr. Avalon Tatum.

Ms. Gladys Clark opposed the \$50 rental fee as too costly.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-1, approving a Minor Subdivision for property located at 100 E. 4th St.

After a brief discussion the Resolution was passed unanimously.

2. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-2, to rescind Resolution No. 2006-24, concerning closing off access from Howell Drive to Buttonwood Avenue. After a lengthy and somewhat heated discussion, this matter was tabled. Council will leave the barricades up while looking into getting gate of some sort and getting Rep. Mulrooney and DeIDOT to install traffic calming measures on Buttonwood Avenue prior to removing the barricades.
3. Discussion to hold a Public Hearing to consider Ordinance No. 448, amending the Zoning Code to grandfather front yard setbacks in the R-1 classification legislated non-conforming by the Amended Zoning Act of 1968. This matter was tabled.
4. Discussion, First and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 448, amending Chapter 171 of the City Code: Parades and Public Assemblies, proposing the application fee be changed and lowered from \$50 to \$5.

#### New Business

1. Discussion to refer to the Planning Commission a request from the Trustees concerning a request to rezone several properties owned by the Trustees. Councilperson DiMondi asked to see the differences in zoning classifications (i.e., permitted uses and setbacks) before voting. Mr. Harker stated that in doing so the City's Comprehensive Plan may need to be changed. Mr. Bergstrom stated that these are not just simple changes. The matter was approved to be referred to the Planning Commission.
2. Discussion to schedule a date for a public hearing on a proposed Ordinance Amending §166-7 of the City Code by adding a new section under (d) Engine Compression Brakes. After a short discussion it was agreed that a Public Hearing should be held on February 13, 2007 at 6:45 p.m. to discuss this matter.
3. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-3, approving a grant applicant to be submitted to receive funds through DNREC for the Natural Resource Management and Community and Local Government Grants program. Councilperson Churchill read the Resolution. Mr. Athey spoke of the problems at Bull Hill and how they could possibly be fixed. He also stated that a grant in the amount of approximately \$25,000 would be needed, but that the City would have to match those funds with cash and/or in-kind services. It was suggested that Council request matching funds from the Trustees and if the funds were forthcoming, a grant could be applied for next year.
4. Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution No. 2007-4, approving the renegotiated AFSCME Union contract for the term July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009. The Resolution was read and a Motion was made by Councilperson Churchill. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and approved unanimously.

Discussion to schedule a date for a City Council workshop meeting to discuss mid-year budget review. It was decided that the workshop should be scheduled after the 2005-06 annual audit is received and in conformance with notification requirements under FOIA.

#### Comments from the Floor

Dr. Padmaligam again spoke about cleaning up the shoreline at Battery Park. He felt that money should be put towards the Battery Park shoreline than the Bull Hill shoreline.

A Motion was made to enter into Executive Session concerning potential litigation and collective bargaining. The open portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. After the Executive Session, the Council did not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill DiAngelo, City Clerk